

JOHN ALEX McCONE
612 SOUTH FLOWER STREET
LOS ANGELES 90017

Executive Registry

69-5327/1

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

October 22, 1969

Dear Dick:

Recently I received a call from Mr. Gilbert Fitzhugh, chairman of a committee studying the organization of the Department of Defense. Mr. Fitzhugh asked that I meet with his committee, and I agreed to do so at 9:30 on Monday morning, November 17.

In talking with Mr. Fitzhugh, I suggested that he send me an outline of the subject or subjects his committee would wish to discuss with me, and that our discussions be confined to these areas. I pointed out that his committee's charter was so broad and the entire subject so vast that a general discussion would turn out to be nothing more than a "bull session."

Although I have not heard from Mr. Fitzhugh as yet, I have no doubt that he will want to talk about the inter-relationship of DIA, the Service Intelligence Agencies, and CIA. If someone in CIA has met with this committee, I would appreciate knowing the line taken, and if you would be good enough to have the individual --probably Larry Houston --call me in the next few days, this would be helpful.

It is also important for me to know just what clearances have been extended to the Fitzhugh committee. Mr. Fitzhugh indicated that he and his committee had been cleared for atomic matters, but I would like to know what clearances they have in other sensitive areas.

I enjoyed seeing you, I appreciated the briefing, and was delighted to receive favorable comments around town on the work you and the Agency are doing. Keep it up!

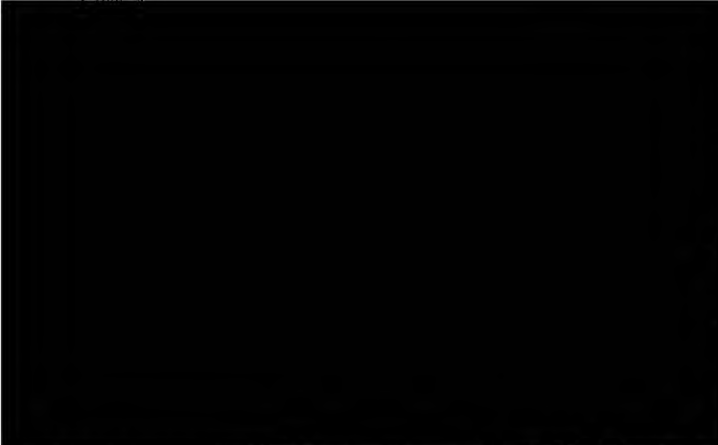
With warm personal regards.

Sincerely,

Mr. Richard Helms
Director
Central Intelligence Agency

Approved For Release 2001/09/10 : CIA-RDP80B01086A000900220015-4

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Dear Dick:

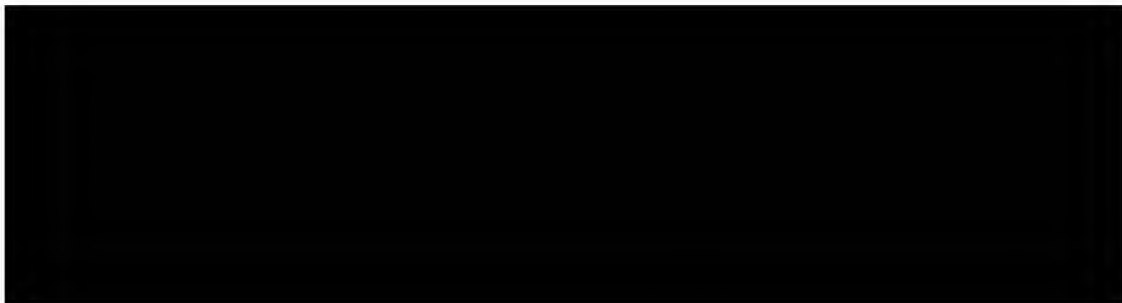
Since writing you, I have received a communication from Mr. Gilbert Fitzhugh indicating that his committee would like to raise the following questions in areas of the general intelligence field.

1. Do you think the relationships between the various elements in the intelligence community are such as to produce the most efficient response with the fewest gaps or overlaps.
2. What is your evaluation of the resulting assessments, estimates, etc.
3. Are the various communications networks adequate for the purpose.

Items No. 1 and No. 2 give me no problem. Of course, there is always room for improvement. Gaps should be eliminated to the extent possible and overlaps might prove more of an insurance than a disadvantage.

I feel, with few exceptions, that the assessments and estimates have stood up pretty well. The fact that Bob McNamara became a 100% convert supports this belief.

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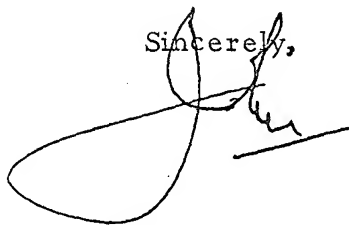
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October 23, 1969

The remaining questions concern inter-relationships with the DOD and the AEC and I am writing Glenn Seaborg concerning these matters.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature, likely of J. Edgar Hoover, written in dark ink. The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial 'J' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr. Richard Helms
Director
The Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

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